

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043341

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCA-01 VO-03 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 /045 R

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APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK

H:HFNELSON, JR. (INFO)

SCA/VO:JMCHALE (SUBS)

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P 232328Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, RP (ROCAMORA, JOEL)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CASE: W/W JOEL ROCAMORA

REF: MANILA 2524

1. DEPT OFFICER DISCUSSED ROCAMORA CASE WITH DON LOWITZ
FEBRUARY 23. LOWITZ HAD TALKED WITH MR. FREEMAN AND
WISHED DEPT'S ADVICE ON WHETHER OR NOT NANCY ROCAMORA
SHOULD MEET WITH MENDOZA.

2. LOWITZ WAS TOLD MENDOZA EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL IN GOP
AND APPEARED TO BE ROCAMORA'S BEST HOPE FOR FINDING SOLU-
TION TO PROBLEM. NANCY ROCAMORA WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO
LISTEN TO MENDOZA AND FOLLOW WHATEVER ADVICE HE OFFERS.

3. LOWITZ SAID JOEL ROCAMORA APPARENTLY GETTING RESTLESS
AND TALKING OF FLEEING COUNTRY. LOWITZ ALSO WANTED TO
KNOW IF ROCAMORA COULD TURN HIMSELF IN TO US EMBASSY AND
HAVE EMBASSY MEDIATE WITH GOP. LOWITZ WAS TOLD IT WOULD BE
TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT DIRECT MEDIA-
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PAGE 02 STATE 043341

TION BETWEEN PHILIPPINE CITIZEN AND GOP. DEPT OFFICER

OBSERVED THAT ROCAMORA SEEMED TO BE OVERREACTING WITH TALK OF FLEEING COUNTRY, WHICH WOULD IN ANY EVENT BE VERY HAZARDOUS UNDERTAKING. DEPT WAS UNWILLING TO PUT ITSELF IN

POSITION OF ADVISING ROCAMORA EITHER TO SURRENDER OR FLEE. WE ASSUMED THAT WHEN AND IF GOP DECIDED TO PLACE PRIORITY ON ARREST OF ROCAMORA IT WOULD BE FAIRLY EASY TO DO, AND THAT FUGITIVE ARRESTED WHILE TRYING TO FLEE WAS IN WORSE POSITION THAN PERSON WHO TURNED SELF IN VOLUNTARILY.

4. DEPT ADVISED LOWITZ THAT U.S. CONSULAR OFFICIALS OUTSIDE PHILIPPINES HAD AUTHORITY TO WAIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSPORT, ETC., AND THAT THEORETICALLY VISA COULD BE ISSUED TO ROCAMORA OUTSIDE PHILIPPINES. HOWEVER, DEPT COULD GIVE NO GUARANTEES IN THIS MATTER.

5. LOWITZ ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD ACCOMPANY NANCY TO MENDOZA MEETING. HE WAS TOLD NANCY SHOULD FOLLOW EMBASSY ADVICE IN THIS MATTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE043341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASWIFT:JAK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760067-1139
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760222/aaaaatbt.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 2524
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CASE: W/W JOEL ROCAMORA
TAGS: CASC, RP, (ROCAMORA, JOEL)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006